

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first paragraph with the following new paragraph:

[0001] This application claims priority of International Application No. PCT/US2002/031782, entitled "RECYCLED RUBBER PROCESSING AND PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT", filed on October 2, 2002. The above-listed application is commonly assigned with the present invention and is incorporated herein by reference as if reproduced herein in its entirety. This Application claims the benefit of U.S. Patent No. ~~6,690,042~~ 6,590,042, Serial No. 09/970,177, filed October 3, 2001 and which was co-pending with the above-referenced PCT application.